

Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 NRC-05 ERDA-05

/070 W

----- 078941

R 290358Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 802

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CNO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, NZ

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND

1. DURING MY INITIAL OFFICIAL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER MUCLEDOON JANUARY 29 HE SAID "I'M NOT IN ANY TROUBLE" REGARDING HIS RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT USN NPW'S WILL BE PERMITTED TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND PORTS. HE SAID HE HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO AN EARLY NPW VISIT BUT NOTED FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD TO WORK OUT CERTAIN TECHNICAL DETAILS. WHILE, AS HE INDICATED DURING RECENT MEETING WITH CODEL HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN, HE HAD BEEN THINKING OF POSSIBLE INITIAL NPW VISIT TO A SOUTH ISLAND PORT, HE HAD SINCE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY AUCKLAND PROVIDES ADEQUATE FACILITIES FORBERTHING NPW'S. (IT IS TRUE THAT WELLINGTON HARBOR CAN ACCOMMODATE AN NPW AT ANCHOR, BUT THAT NPW BERTHING FACILITIES ALONGSIDE ARE NOT AVAILABLE.)

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2. I TOLD PM THAT HIS ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING NPW VISITS

HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY WELCOMED BY CINCPAC AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS PRESENT AT RECENT COM MEETING IN HONOLULU. I ASSURED HIM THERE WOULD BE FULL ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE NAVAL AUTHORITIES REGARDING DETAILS OF ANY CONTEMPLATED VISIT. (OUR NAVAL ATTACHE WILL INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND NAVAL AUTHORITIES TO THIS END.)

3. WHEN I REMINDED PM OF STANDING U.S. POLICY TO NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD ANY U.S. WARSHIPS OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT, HE SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THIS POSITION. HE CONCLUDED THIS PORTION OF CONVERSATION WITH COMMENT THAT THERE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PROTESTS WHEN NPW VISITS ARE RESUMED BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT THESE WOULD DWINDLE WITH PASSAGE OF TIME. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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